



November 6, 2017

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, November 3, 2017, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Amy Bender, wireline legal advisor to Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, and Claude Aiken, wireline legal advisor to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, to discuss matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

Consistent with prior advocacy, NTCA discussed the need to address outstanding issues teed up for reconsideration or further action in connection with high-cost universal service fund (“USF”) reforms, including a recommended, readily available path toward helping to mitigate the pervasive insufficiency of USF support and greater prospective confirmation as to the eligibility of certain expenses for cost recovery. *See Ex Parte* Letters from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”), WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Feb. 3, 2017; May 3, 2017; May 9, 2017; Aug. 15, 2017). NTCA further observed that, even as longer-term measures with respect to USF budgets are considered, the Commission can and should take action now with respect to near-term USF sufficiency concerns in response to the fully-briefed record arising out of its petition for reconsideration. Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification of NTCA, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed May 25, 2016), at 2-11.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President –
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Amy Bender
Claude Aiken